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Approved For Release 2004/12/02 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000800050008-7

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26 March 1973

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: VAS/RAC

1. The Related Activities Center of the Vietnamese Affairs Staff (VAS/RAC), is an all-source facility which supports the Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs (SAVA) the VAS, and the Office of the Director in regard to activities in South Vietnam as well as the rest of the Indochina area and Thailand. It also serves as a "common concern" source of support and assistance to all Agency components with Indochina responsibilities. VAS/RAC performs several functions in discharging its responsibilities to the SAVA, the O/DCI, and the rest of the Agency, including the preparation of periodic and special reports, briefings, both general and for special situations that may develop in the military sphere as well as in other areas, and the maintenance of a complete picture of the friendly and enemy order of battle and infiltration situation. In carrying out its responsibilities, VAS/RAC, of course, keeps in close, cooperative contact with the CIA Operations Center, the CSDO, and other entities such as the Laos Operations Center of DDO's FE Division.

2. In order to discharge its duties, VAS/RAC regularly operates a 13-hour day which partially compensates for the time differential with the Indochina area. Work normally commences between 0600-0630, when the writer of the VAS/RAC Daily Situation Report, and the Chief, VAS/RAC arrive. The overnight mail is read for important and significant Agency, State Department, and DOD items which are flagged for the SAVA. Incidentally, VAS receives a substantial amount of DDO operational traffic (as it bears on the Indochina problem) as well as usual intelligence reporting. Shutdown time is determined largely by whatever the demands of the situation may be, but the normal closing hour is about 1900. The staff is set up to switch instantly to longer hours, including around-the-clock manning, whenever a need for this type of coverage arises.

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3. The VAS/RAC facility utilizes the service of nine personnel (including one Intelligence Assistant). One officer is in charge and the rest of the personnel function essentially as Operations Officers. Detailed order of battle files and displays are maintained on friendly and enemy force structures of the four countries of Indochina. A daily SIGINT order of battle picture for enemy forces in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos is maintained on large battle map displays. The backup material supporting these displays are maintained by individual analysts who are also responsible for any studies or briefings of current or past situations, written or oral, that may be required. Regarding enemy order of battle holdings in South Vietnam, we have recently committed our holdings to a computer driven system. At the present, we have the ability to insert new units, plot DF fixes on units in the matrix, and call up the entire file. Within a short time, we should have a fully de-bugged query system which will provide VAS/RAC with the ability to track over time the positions of an individual unit, and a computer-driven map plot system which will print out units located within a given set of coordinates.

4. In addition to its continuing contact with other Agency elements, such as the Operations Center, CSDO, and FE's LOC, VAS/RAC maintains secure communications with the White House Situation Room, State Department Operations Center, the NMCC, and DIA, and may conduct daily liaison with all of these entities. Also, we have the equipment in place which allows direct contact with field stations through the Communications Center. This latter capability allows continuous around-the-clock communications with our field stations in Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam, as required.

5. Finally, VAS/RAC is the venue for various special meetings which are called by the SAVA or others of VAS. The gatherings may involve inter-Agency groups or they may be confined to in-house groups.

6. Extensive reference files relating essentially to military developments in Indochina are either maintained in VAS/RAC (normally two years are immediately on hand) or readily available (24 hours) from the Warrenton Records Center.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

DATE: 26 Mar 73

TO: Mr. Lehman

FROM: GACarver, Jr.

SUBJECT:

REMARKS:

Per your request, attached is the original plus one copy of a short note on our Related Activities Center.

/s/

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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